



Illustration by Jeanne R. Janish,
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OXYTROPIS CAMPESTRIS* VAR *COLUMBIANA
COLUMBIA CRAZYWEED

Columbia Crazyweed is a clump-forming perennial with leafless flower stalks that are 5-30 cm tall, and arising from a branched rootstock. The basal leaves are pinnately compound with mostly less than 17 leaflets, and have membranous stipules that are attached to the petiole for at least 1/2 their length. The greenish to grayish foliage is sparsely to densely covered by hairs. The flower stalks are slightly shorter to much longer than the leaves and bear 5-40 flowers in a spike like inflorescence. The pea-like flowers are 10-20 mm long. The greenish tubular calyx is covered by grayish to blackish hairs and has five pointed teeth. The white corolla consists of an upper banner petal, two wing petals at the side, and a lower keel petal with purple spots. The pod is two-celled, several seeded, membranous, and 1-2.5 cm long. Flowering in late May - early June; fruiting in late June - early July.

OXYTROPIS CAMPESTRIS is most similar to *O. SERICEA* in having whitish corollas, stipules attached to petioles for most their length, foliage not glandular, leaflets 2-ranked, and inflorescences with more than 4 flowers. *OXYTROPIS SERICEA* differs by having pods which become bony rather than membranous, and by somewhat larger flowers, averaging 15 mm long. Other subspecies of *OXYTROPIS CAMPESTRIS* differ by having cream colored flowers with lower petals that lack purple spots, and by leaves mostly with more than 17 leaflets.